

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 20, 2009, the Examiner indicates that restriction of the claims is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372. More specifically, the Examiner states that the Application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions that are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1:

- I. Group 1, claims 1-10, drawn to a method for manufacturing an electrode catalyst layer;
- II. Group II, claim 11, drawn to an electrode;
- III. Group III, claims 12-14, drawn to a battery/vehicle; and
- IV. Group IV, claims 15-18, drawn to an electrode ink composition.

The Examiner states that, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, Applicants are required to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Applicants have amended each of claims 1-10 to correct antecedent basis and/or to make minor clarifications to the claims. Claim 11 is amended to depend from claim 1 and recites an electrode comprising the base material having at least one surface and the electrode catalyst layer manufactured according to the method of claim 1 overlying at least a portion of the surface of the base material. Claim 12 is amended to depend from claim 1 and recites a battery comprising at least one positive electrode, at least one electrolyte layer and at least one negative electrode sequentially positioned in laminated relationship to one another, wherein at least one of the positive electrode and the negative electrode comprises the electrode catalyst layer manufactured according to the method of claim 1. Claim 13 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 14 is amended to depend from claim 1 and recites vehicle comprising a power source wherein the power source includes at least one battery comprising at least one positive electrode, at least one electrolyte layer and at least one negative electrode sequentially positioned in laminated relationship to one another, at least one of the positive electrode and the negative electrode comprising the electrode catalyst layer manufactured according to the method of claim 1.

Finally, claim 15 and its dependent claims are also amended to depend from claim 1. Namely, claim 15 now recites the method of claim 1 wherein the first electrode ink composition further comprises a surfactant compound and wherein the at least one electrode

active material comprises a particulate electrode active material. The preamble of each of claims 16-18 is amended to recite the method of claim 15.

Applicants provisionally select Group I, directed to claims 1-10, with traverse and request modification of the requirement on the basis that Groups II-IV as amended all require two ejecting droplets steps as previously-independent claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 now depend from claim 1. In addition, claims 15-18 are no longer directed to an electrode ink composition alone. Instead, they depend from claim 1 and describe modifications to the first electrode ink composition of claim 1.

Applicant submits that no new matter is added to the Application as filed. Consideration of the Application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if the Examiner believes an Examiner's amendment would expedite prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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